

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HARE. The unemployed don't want another benefits check. They want a job. And I'm proud to say that on Friday, I introduced H.R. 4290, the New Deal for a New Economy Act, which would tackle this problem by creating and helping retain millions of jobs. It will reach that goal by investing \$60 billion per year over 3 years in TARP money.

First, it would invest heavily in the creation of public works and public interest jobs through the creation of the new economy grant program. The jobs could be filled by persons of all skill levels, specifically in the areas of public works projects on the State and local level, and public interest work with community-based nonprofit organizations.

Secondly, it would provide a direct line of funding to states and localities to help alleviate their financial woes. The funding would protect and allow for the expansion of our current workforce and would be channeled directly to local governments through the popular grants programs for COPS hiring, for SAFER Grants for our firefighters, and a public works and economic development grant program. Further, my bill would provide much-needed funding to our Nation's schools to protect our teachers and hire more to meet the needs of our children.

The third and final piece of this bill is one that is critical to restoring our Nation's lands for future generations. It's a direct line of funding to our national forests and national parks to address some of their many high-needs projects that have been neglected for decades.

Mr. Speaker, Wall Street got its bailout. It's time for Main Street to get theirs. Again, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

TOO MANY PRIORITIES

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, if we don't heed Moody's warning, our Nation's AAA credit rating is likely to be downgraded due to unsustainable deficits by 2013. And what does this President and this majority do to answer this serious issue? Spend more money we don't have at record levels.

The President and the majority party have no interest in reining in the budget deficit. Just this weekend, top White House advisers said that tackling the deficit was not a priority. This administration has a lot of priorities. A frequent criticism has been that it has too many priorities. Apparently everything is a priority except for deficit reduction. I guess this shouldn't be a surprise coming from an administration that, in its first year in office, tripled the budget deficit to an all-time record high of \$1.4 trillion.

The President just graded his job performance on the Oprah show as a B-plus. I can only imagine, and with fear, the kind of deficit the President would have run-up if he had given himself an A.

IRAN REFINED PETROLEUM SANCTIONS ACT

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, despite its claims of pursuing only a peaceful nuclear program, Iran's actions clearly show that it's developing a nuclear bomb. You only need three elements to create a bomb: material, a delivery system, and a warhead. Iran has or almost has all three of these elements.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, Tehran has developed 1¾ tons of low-enriched uranium, enough to make two bombs. As for a delivery system, we know Iran has missiles and in May, tested a new long-range missile that can reach Israel, our other allies, and our troops in the region.

Regarding a warhead, the IAEA has evidence that Iran is working on fitting a bomb inside a missile cone. And this week it was reported that Iran has a plan to test a neutron initiator, a component that is used only to trigger a nuclear bomb and has no possible civilian applications.

As we stand here debating, Iran is making a nuclear bomb. The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act will send a signal to Tehran that we will not stand by silently while they develop a nuclear weapon and threaten the entire region.

MEDICARE SENIORS CANNOT AFFORD THE REID-PELOSI PLAN

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, Democrats in the Senate are desperately looking for 60 votes for health care, so desperate that, in a new report released last week, the chief actuary of Medicare found the Reid-Pelosi bill would cause many physicians to stop treating seniors because of \$465 billion in cuts to the Medicare program.

Unfortunately for Medicare beneficiaries, the CMS actuary also found that 20 percent of hospitals and nursing homes would go into the red within the next 10 years due to these cuts, seriously threatening the ability of seniors to rely on these institutions for their care.

As if that were not enough, the Reid bill would also cut payments to Medicare Advantage plans by roughly \$120 billion, plans that 11 million seniors enjoy today. These cuts, according to the actuary, will result in 3.7 million seniors losing benefits under Medicare, causing many to pay more out of pocket each month for the drugs and services they lost. The.

Reid-Pelosi bill will make it harder for seniors to find treatment or afford care when they are sick.

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HONORING ERIE HERO CLARA WARD

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents, an extraordinary woman in Erie, Pennsylvania. Clara Ward, the founder of the Youth Development and Family Center in Erie, was the star of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" this week, where her dedication to children in need was rewarded with an amazing renovation to her home.

With the help of her daughter Cynthia and son Benny, Clara Ward offers her neighborhood's children a safe haven from the streets. Every year, Clara gives 300 children presents for the holidays, and every day, she provides food to children who otherwise would go to bed hungry.

We all have so much to learn from Clara and her spirit of generosity. It is my hope that we carry this lesson through the holiday season and into the new year.

A BOX OF DOUGHNUTS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, requiring Americans to buy health insurance or pay a fine or even go to jail if the fine tax is unpaid is utterly without constitutional authority. Under the Constitution, a citizen has no affirmative duty to purchase a mandated congressional product. Citizens have the right to do nothing.

The bruisers of the Constitution claim people must buy car insurance. That analogy is flawed. First, States, not Congress, have authority under the 10th Amendment that is not given to Congress. Second, driving is a privilege, not a right, and to exercise that privilege, a driver must buy insurance. But no one is forced to drive a car. Third, car insurance is to protect a third party from the driver. No State requires a driver to buy insurance for themselves.

A better analogy would be, in the name of promoting commerce, forcing all people to buy a car whether they wanted to or not, whether they could afford it or not, or be punished. Congress, by force, requiring all people to buy a product, whether it's health insurance or a car or even a box of doughnuts is unconstitutional and abuse of congressional authority.

And that's just the way it is.

THE STIMULUS BILL

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)